

CLAIMS

Sub 1
1. An audio information transmission device comprising:

a user interface, a position detection system, an information server, and a playback manager, wherein,

the user interface provides a user with an ability to submit queries to a database, and further provides location-specific information back to the user;

the position detection system is comprised of a variety of complimentary devices that provide user position data to assist with the user-generated queries;

the information server provides a means for communicating the queries and the position data to the database, and further provides a means for communicating references to the playback manager; and,

the playback manager provides a means for delivering location-specific information to the user interface.

2. The audio information transmission device of claim 1 wherein said position detection system further provides orientation data to assist with user-generated queries.

3. The audio information transmission device of claim 1 wherein said playback manager further provides preference-filtered information to the user interface.

4. The audio information transmission device of claim 2 wherein said location-specific information is spatially enhanced based on the user position and orientation data to appear to be coming from a location or object with which the information is associated.

5. The audio information transmission device of claim 1 wherein said location-specific information is provided to the user as text.

6. The audio information transmission device of claim 1 wherein said location-specific information that is only available as text is automatically converted from text to a user-selected spoken language.

7. The audio information transmission device of claim 1 wherein said location-specific audio information is automatically translated from a spoken language to another spoken language of the user's choice.

8. The audio information transmission device of claim 1 wherein said information server is either a distributed Internet-based information server networked to a plurality of information sources or a dedicated independent server.

9. The audio information transmission device of claim 1 wherein said location specific information has an ability to be user-annotated or user-modified.

10. The audio information transmission device of claim 9 wherein said location-specific information has an ability to be user-annotated or user-modified provided the user has administrative authorization.

11. The audio information transmission device of claim 1 wherein said user interface a two-way communications device.

12. The audio information transmission device of claim 11, wherein said two-way communications device is selected from the group consisting of a wireless phone, a mobile phone, a traditional phone, a fixed or mobile transceiver, and a computer.

13. The audio information transmission device of claim 2 configured to provide location-specific information based on an expected user destination determined from the user orientation data.

14. A method of providing audio information comprising the steps of:
providing a user interface whereby a user submits queries to a database;
utilizing a position detection system comprised of a variety of position devices to generate user position;
communicating the queries and the position data through an information server to the database;
communicating location-specific information through the information server to a playback manager;

utilizing the playback manager to send the information to the user interface; and,
utilizing the user-interface to communicate the information to the user.

5 15. The method of providing audio information of claim 14 wherein the position detection system further collects user orientation data.

16. The method of providing audio information of claim 15 wherein said location-specific information is spatially-enhanced based on the user position and orientation data to appear to be coming from an area or object with which the information is associated.

17. The method of providing audio information of claim 14 wherein said location-specific information is available as text.

18. The method of providing audio information of claim 17 wherein said location-specific information that is only available as text is automatically converted from text to a user-selected spoken language.

19. The method of providing audio information of claim 14 wherein said location-specific audio information is automatically translated from a spoken language foreign to the user to a language of a user's choice.

20. The method of providing audio information of claim 14 wherein said information server is either a distributed Internet-based information server networked to a plurality of information sources or a dedicated independent server.

21. The method of providing audio information of claim 14 wherein said location-specific information has an ability to be user-annotated or user-modified.

22. The method of providing audio information of claim 21 wherein said location-specific information has an ability to be user-annotated or user-modified provided the user has administrator authorization.

23. The method of providing audio information of claim 14 wherein said user interface is a two-way communications device.

24. The method of providing audio information of claim 15 configured to provide location-specific information based on expected user destination inferred from the user orientation data.

25. The method of providing audio information of claim 14 configured to provide location-specific information based on the user's expected destination as determined from user input.

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